

Homegrown Minneapolis – January 31, Update

GROW A GIVING GARDEN: *Give the gift of health to your community by growing fresh fruits and vegetables for your local food shelf*



CALLING ALL MINNEAPOLIS-BASED BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS!

DID YOU KNOW many families in Minneapolis rely on food shelves to feed their households? Food shelves play an important role in improving the health of their clients by offering healthy food options, including fresh foods and vegetables. However, healthy items are not regularly donated and are often expensive for food shelves to purchase on their own.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP! The Minneapolis Health Department is recruiting Minneapolis-based businesses and organizations to grow fresh produce for local food shelves by starting a Giving Garden, an innovative way to help provide nutritious foods for individuals and families in need. Worksite Giving Gardens also provide a bounty of benefits to your employees and worksite including volunteerism, sustainable employee wellness, and the opportunity to be a role model for other worksites in your community. You can grow a Giving Garden in the ground, raised beds, or straw bales placed in parking lot stalls!

Interested in learning more? Join the Minneapolis Health Department, in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, for a 2-hour workshop about Growing a Giving Garden. At this workshop, you will learn more about starting Giving Gardens, hear from model garden worksites, receive information about the resources that are available to you, and hear about how the health department can connect you to a local food shelf near you!



Date: Thursday - February 27, 2014

Time: 9:30-11:30am (arrive 15 minutes early to ensure that we start/end on time)

Location: East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center, 2307 17th Avenue S.

For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail Vish Vasani at vish.vasani@minneapolismn.gov or call (612) 673-3861.

Want to help but can't start a garden? If a Giving Garden is not possible, visit the [Healthy Food Shelf Network website](#) for ideas on how you can still help local food shelves in your neighborhood.

RFP for Healthy Living Initiative

On Thursday, February 6, 2014 the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) as part of its Healthy Living Initiative. Applicants will be asked to propose community-defined and community-driven projects that will create healthier environments for small, clearly defined groups of residents. This RFP is designed to support "shovel-ready" projects that will create opportunities for residents to eat healthy foods, be physically active and live tobacco-free.

The goal of this initiative is to support specific projects that will improve community livability and residents' health related to obesity and tobacco use/exposure. The Health Department will select three organizations to implement projects between April 2014–June 2015. Up to \$30,000 is available to each recipient. The full RFP will provide more details about what recipients are expected to accomplish and what types of projects are eligible for funding.

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) not-for-profit or governmental agencies. Proposed projects must benefit Minneapolis residents with higher rates of obesity, tobacco use and related diseases such as diabetes, asthma or heart disease. Projects can be concentrated in specific populations defined by age or race/ethnicity or geographic communities with the highest rates of poverty and poor health conditions. These communities include: Near North, Camden, Powderhorn, University, Central, and Phillips and the following neighborhoods in Northeast Minneapolis: Beltrami, Holland, Logan Park, Marshall Terrace, Northeast Park Loop, Sheridan and St. Anthony East. A map of neighborhood and community boundaries can be found at www.minneapolismn.gov/maps/neighborhoods.

OBTAINING THE FULL RFP

The full Request for Proposals will be available February 6, 2014 and can be obtained by:

- Downloading the RFP from the City website at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/grants
- Emailing your request for an electronic copy to the Minneapolis Health Department at: health@minneapolismn.gov

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE



Homegrown Minneapolis

On Friday, February 14, 2014 from 9:00-10:30 a.m., MHD will host a pre-proposal meeting for interested applicants. The meeting will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis.

MHD staff will present and answer questions about this funding opportunity. While participation in the pre-proposal conference is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged as it is the only opportunity to ask questions directly to Health Department staff. To maintain fair and equitable communication among all applicants, staff will not respond to direct phone calls or emails. If you are unable to attend this conference, or have additional questions following it, you may submit them to health@minneapolismn.gov. Please put "Community-Driven Change Projects" in the subject line. Staff will accept questions until March 5, 2014 and post answers to the questions on the MHD website each Friday through March 7, 2014.

Funding for this project comes from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Submit Comments to MN Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources on behalf of Pollinators

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is developing best management practices (BMPs) for managing public lands for diversity of flora - to protect and enhance habitat for pollinators. These draft BMP's are open for public comment through February 15th. Comments can be sent to pollinatorhabitat.dnr@state.mn.us by February 15th.

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is also revising BMPs for pesticide use that takes into consideration the effects on pollinators (especially bees.) They are developing recommendations for 1) urban areas, 2) right-of-ways, and 3) agricultural lands. Part of this process is to review the registration and use of neonicotinoids. This process can be tracked at www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators.aspx

Please take the time to follow this process and share your thoughts and concerns.

We need to grow the local food movement! Forward this newsletter to your friends or post the link to Homegrown Minneapolis on Facebook.

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/homegrown>

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Lance Knuckles at (612) 673-2919 or email Lance.Knuckles@minneapolismn.gov. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at (612) 673-3000. TTY users may call (612) 673-2157 or (612) 673-2626.

Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call 311 (or insert your department telephone number)

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu (612) 673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame (612) 673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac (612) 673-3500